

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 TORONT 01285 272205Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-15 TRSE-00 /069 W  
-----281712Z 095743 /40

R 272004Z MAY 77  
FM AMCONSUL TORONTO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5545  
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMCONSUL WINNIPEG  
ALL CONSULATES GENERAL IN CANADA

UNCLAS TORONTO 1285

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS:PGOV, CA  
SUBJECT: ONTARIO ELECTIONS -- STATUS REPORT

REF: TORONTO 1040

1. SUMMARY. WITH ELECTION DAY JUNE 9, 9,6 2 WEEKS AWAY,  
GENERAL CONSENSUS IS THAT PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVES WILL  
BE RETURNED WITH MAJORITY IN ONTARIO GENERAL LEGISLATIVE  
ASSEMBLY, THAT NDP WILL CONTINUE AS OPPOSITION PARTY AND  
THAT PROVINCIAL LIBERALS WILL CONTINUE IN THIRD PLACE  
BUT WITH SMALLER NUMBER OF MPPS AND LOWER TOTAL POPULAR  
VOTE. END SUMMARY.

2. PREMIER DAVIS' TORY MACHINE, IN THE OPINION OF MOST  
TORONTONIANS, THE MEDIA AND POLLS, SHOULD CAPTURE A CLEAR  
MAJORITY IN JUNE 9. ELECTIONS. SOME SOURCES, INCLUDING  
FRIENDS ACTIVE IN OPPOSITION CAMPAIGNS, SUGGEST TORIES  
MAY CAPTURE AS MANY AS 75 OF ASSEMBLY'S 125 SEATS. THE  
TORIES CURRENTLY HAVE 52 SEATS AND THEIR CAMPAIGN  
ORGANIZATION PROBABLY IS THE BEST OF THE THREE MAJOR  
PARTIES. AS SEEMS TYPICAL WHEN TORIES BECOME CONFIDENT,  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 TORONT 01285 272205Z

THRE ARE SOME RUMBLINGS OF DISCONTENT IN PROVINCIAL  
PARTY EXECUTIVE REGARDING PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-  
MAKING BUT, WHILE REFLECTING PC LOVE OF INTRNAL STRIFE,  
SHOULD HAVE LITTLE EFFECT ON ELECTION OUTCOME.

3. NDP DOES NOT SEEM TO BE DOING AS WELL AS IN 1975,  
PERHAPS BECUASE 1977 CAMPAIGN, TYPICALLY WITHOUT STRIKING

ISSUES, DOES NOT EVEN HAVE IRRITANT OF RENT CONTROL ISSUE WHICH HELPED NDP IN 1975. ALSO, PARTY LEADER LEWIS HAS SHOWN SOME APPARENT CONFLICT WITH PARTY PHILOSOPHY -- E.G., NATIONALIZATION OF RESOURCES -- WHICH REINFORCES OPPONENTS' CLAIMS THAT IN LOOKING AT NDP, ONE MUST REMEMBER PQ IN QUEBEC WINNING ON GROUNDS OF GOOD GOVERNMENT AND THEN PUSHING SEPARATISM TO EXTREME -- NDP TRYING TO PROJECT IMAGE OF RESPONSIBLE CENTRALIST PARTY BUT SOCIALIST TENDENCY STILL STRONG. PCS USING ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN CUTTING MAN IN THE STREET IN VANCOUVER ON PROSPECT OF RETURN OF NDP GOVERNMENT IN B.C.

4. LIBERAL PARTY HAS CONTINUED RATHER SLUGGISH CAMPAIGN AND JUST MADE DEADLINE THIS WEEK TO NOMINATE CANDIDATES IN ALL PROVINCIAL RIDINGS. LEADER STUART SMITH HAVING CONTINUING PROBLEMS PROJECTING HIMSELF AS POLITICAL LEADER AS OPPOSED TO PHILOSOPHER AND SUFFERING STRONG MEDIA CRITICISM/RIDICULE. IT IS EXPECTED THAT LIBERALS WILL RETAIN SOUTHWESTERN STRENGTH, LONDON, ESSEX, KENT COUNTIES, ETC., MAY RETAIN ONLY ONE SEAT IN METRO TORONTO AND ONE IN NORTHERN ONTARIO. ONE FREQUENTLY HEARS DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN HIJH JONTON PANS FEARING THIS ELECTION WILL MEAN DEMISE OF PROVINCIAL LIBERAL PARTY AND THAT THIS WILL EVENTUALLY MEAN AN NDP GOVERNMENT. MAJOR EFFECTS OF LIBERAL DECLINE WILL BE MEASURED MOST PROBABLY NOT ONLY ON LIBERAL REPRESENTATION IN ASSEMBLY BUT ALSO ON NDP CANDIDATES WHO WON FOR FIRST TIME IN 1975 BY SMALL MARGIN BECAUSE OF MAJOR VOTE SPLIT BETWEEN PC AND LIBERAL OPPONENTS.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 TORONT 01285 272205Z

5. QUEBEC AND CANADIAN UNITY MAJOR NON-ISSUE IN CAMPAIGN WHICH DAVIS USING MOST EFFECTIVELY. ALL THREE PARTIES EMPHASIZE UNANIMITY ON SAVING CONFEDERATION BUT EVEN RAISING ISSUE REMINS VOTERS OF DAVIS AS WISE LEADER DEALING WITH QUEBEC, OF LEWIS' INITIAL HAPPINESS WITH VICTORY OF SOCIALIST-ORIENTED PARTY AND OF SMITH'S STRONG DEMANDS FOR ACTIVIST ROLE BY ONTARIO GOVERNMENT IN LEADING QUEBEC VOTERS BACK INTO FOLD -- AN IDEA THAT REALLY DIDN'T APPEAL EVEN TO LIBERALS.

DIGGINS

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN



## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ELECTION FORECASTS, PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, VOTE OF CONFIDENCE, POLITICAL PARTIES, POLITICAL LEADERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 27-May-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977TORONT01285  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770191-1209  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** TORONTO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t1977057/aaaaafyk.tel  
**Line Count:** 108  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** a9823096-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 TORONTO 1040  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 22-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2564814  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ONTARIO ELECTIONS -- STATUS REPORT  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PINT, CA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/a9823096-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009